

REMARKSI. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated June 29, 2004, claims 4, 22, and 32 have been cancelled, claims 1, 6, 21, 23, 31, 33, and 38 have been amended. Claims 1-3, 5-21, 23-32, and 33-44 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. Prior Art Rejections

In paragraphs (1)-(2) of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 14-21, 30-31, and 39-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bird, U.S. Patent No. 5,784,476 (Bird) in view of Frindle et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,923,767 (Frindle).

However, in paragraphs (3)-(4) of the Office Action, claims 4-13, 22-29, and 32-38 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable claims and has amended the independent claims to incorporate the allowable subject matter.

Thus, in view of the indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the application. In this regard, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 21, 31, and 41 are allowable over Bird and Frindle. Further, dependent claims 2-3, 5-20, 23-30, 33-40, and 42-44 are submitted to be allowable over Bird and Frindle in the same manner, because they are dependent on independent claims 1, 21, 31, and 41, respectively, and thus contain all the limitations of the independent claims. In addition, dependent claims 2-3, 5-20, 23-30, 33-40, and 42-44 recite additional novel elements not shown by Bird and Frindle.

III. Conclusion

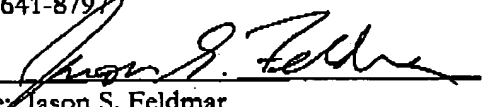
In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

GATES & COOPER LLP
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

Howard Hughes Center
6701 Center Drive West, Suite 1050
Los Angeles, California 90045
(310) 641-8797

Date: September 29, 2004

By: 
Name: Jason S. Feldmar
Reg. No.: 39,187

JSF/amb